



NOW

FINAL REPORT

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NOW
AFRICAN YOUTH AND MIGRATION

3 - 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

KAMPALA - UGANDA

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Executive Summary

Hosted by the former Member of the European Parliament, Hannes Swoboda, the 4th Conference NOW on "African Youth and Migration" from September 3-5, 2017 in Kampala, Uganda, gathered about 40 experts from more than 10 mostly Sub-Saharan and some European countries. Politicians, refugees, youth and NGO representatives discussed the situation of young refugees and migrants within Africa and beyond as well as perspectives of African Youth in four panels and three interactive sessions.

With the world's largest population under 18, Africa is the youngest continent. While this generation between 15 and 30 years holds a lot of potential, it is also faced with a lot of challenges. Unemployment, poor living conditions, famines, consequences of climate change, terror and armed conflicts, are circumstances that make building a future for oneself or a family unstable, unpredictable, unsafe. Where people suffer from such problems, the situation gives rise to the youth seeking a better future - the central question being, how and where they can find it. 28% of the people migrating from Africa to Europe are between 15 to 24 years old.

It is to be acknowledged that the biggest responsibility for the support and reception of refugees is borne by African countries. They should be supported by Europe and the international community.

For African youth emigration must not be the first choice or only option, but they need to stand a chance to stay, live and work in Africa to build a better future.

Therefore, the empowerment of the African youth is urgent and achievable by allocating them with ownership that will enable access to adequate education, good jobs and a basic health service, which will create and guarantee decent living conditions in their countries of origin. The youth are actors of change, this change must include improvement of economic and social development but also good governance and democracy.

It is a necessity for both the EU and AU to address the root causes of forced migration (not only symptoms), link conflict prevention with migration policy programs and establish policies to integrate migrants (right to work, mobility, healthcare, social services, etc.)

EU and AU should partner and develop a cooperation which encourages exchange programs (like the set-up of an Erasmus-like program for Africa) between the continents and establishes a mutual recognition of skills and certificates on a level playing field. African diaspora in Europe can be a bridge-builder between Africa and Europe, and help to diminish reciprocal prejudices. Also, programs for returnees should be developed jointly.

Accessibility and sustainability of education for all (also girls, people with disabilities, etc.), starting in early childhood, especially focussing on knowledge and skills that are locally beneficial are essential for Africa's future. Just as the issue of capacity building of institutions and states (anti-corruption, rule of law, equality...) to promote good governance, transparency in economic relations and the resolving and preventing of conflicts. To increase local employment of youth, investment and support of domestic industries, a decentralized system of renewable energy production and sustainable agriculture to secure ample food supply and food safety are indispensable.

African countries, like Uganda, show a generous approach towards refugees, by opening borders and equal treatment of all people, which can be beneficial in terms of implementing promising practices regarding migration policy also elsewhere.

The key findings and recommendations of this NOW Conference in Kampala will be advocated at the 5th AU-EU Summit in November 2017. All attendees took part very actively and confirmed their willingness to promote the ideas and conclusions of this conference in the upcoming months to influence the deliberations and outcomes at the 5th EU-Africa Summit in Côte d'Ivoire.

Visual Recording

4th International Conference NOW

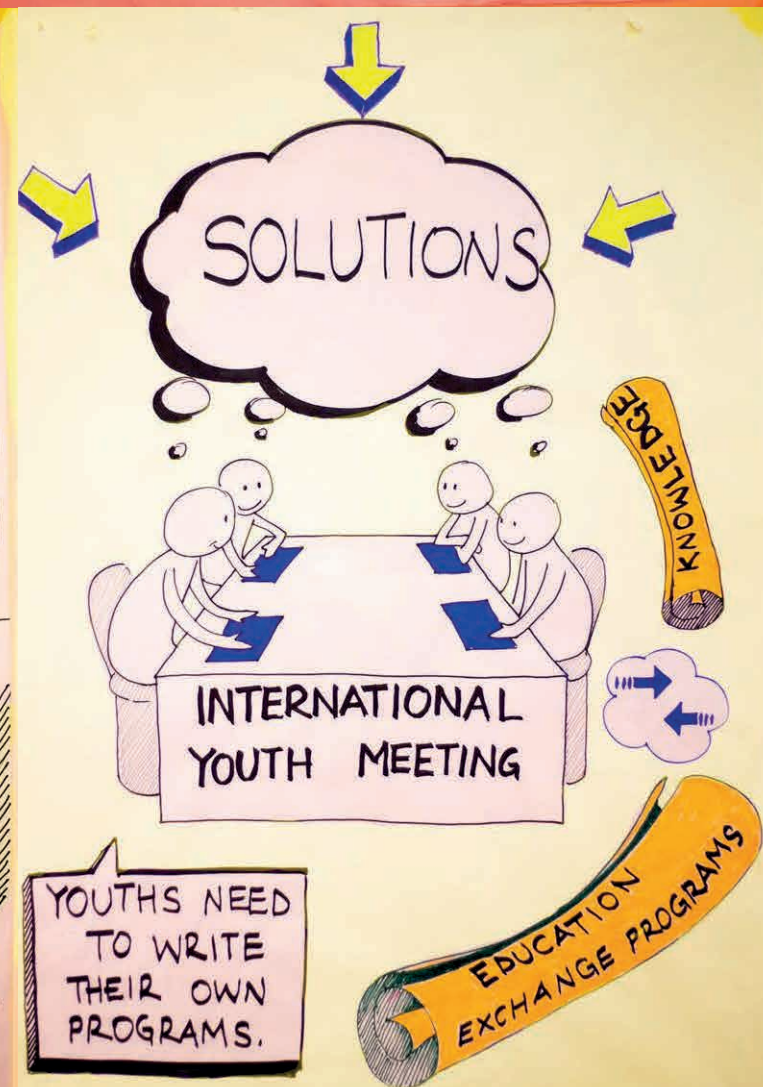
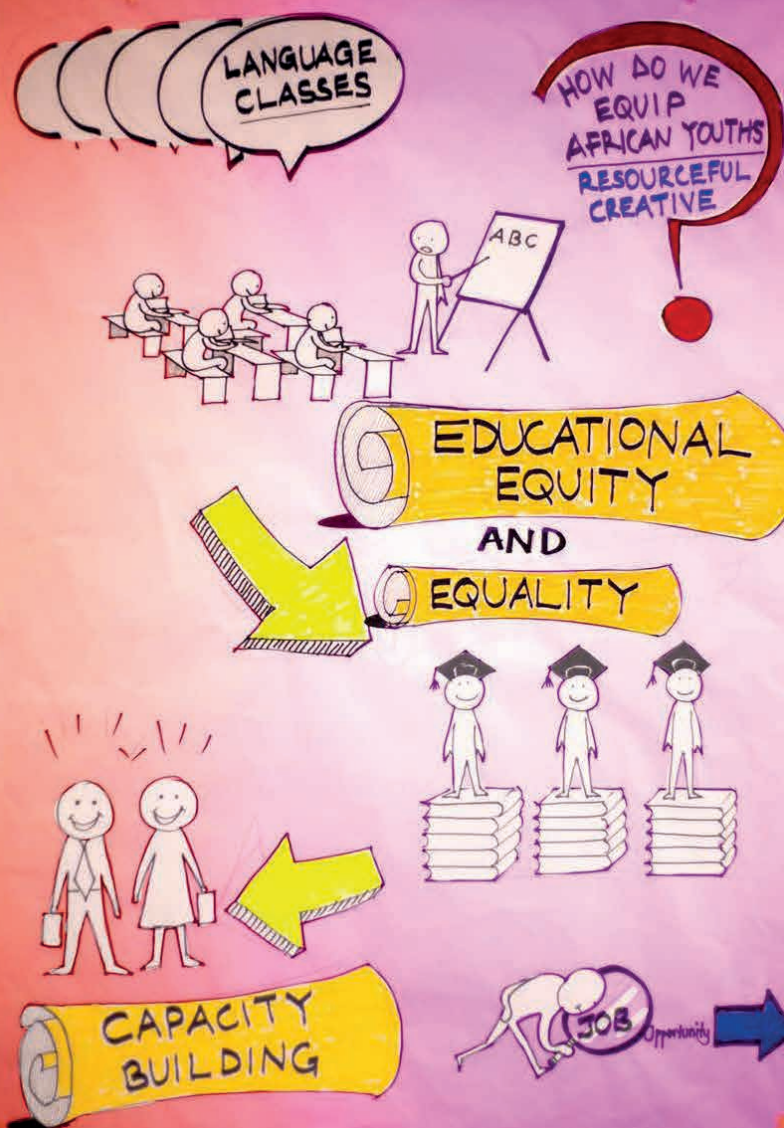
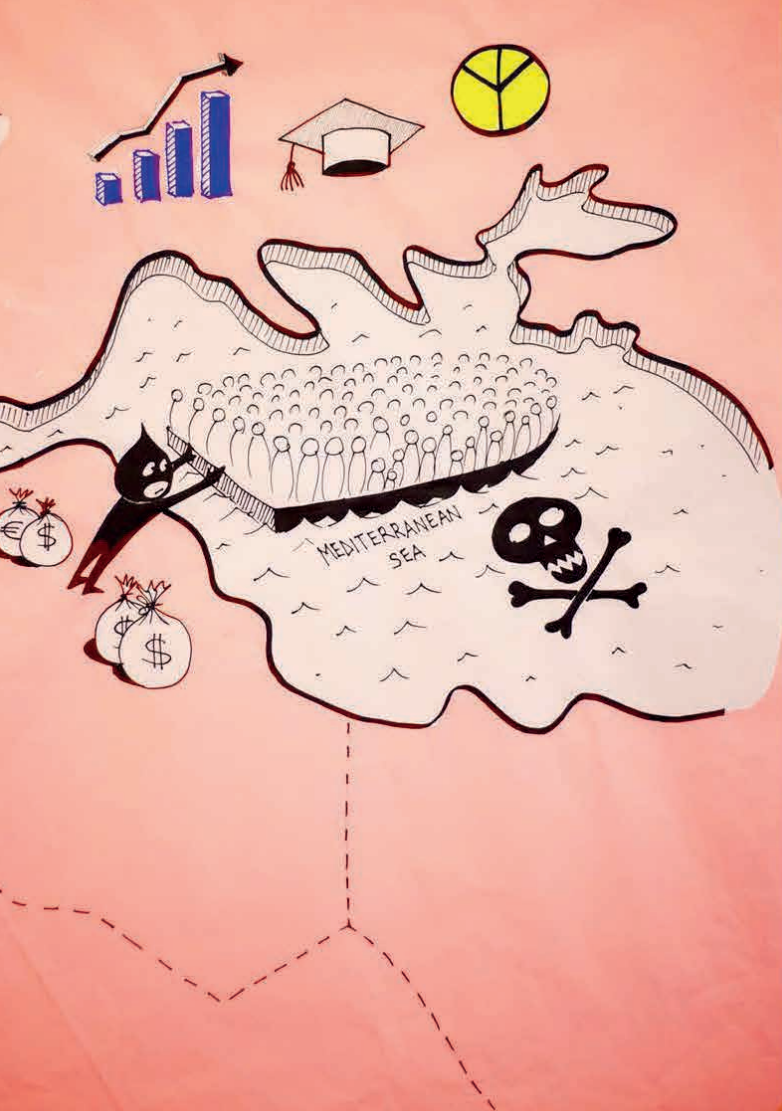
African Youth and Migration

3 - 5 September 2017

UGANDA - KAMPALA

by Arnold Abayo





About the Conference

"Migration can have a positive impact on young people by opening up new opportunities, by access to all forms of education and professional experience, or to pursue personal development by building self-confidence, skills and competences. Forced displacement however, confronts young people with specific risks and challenges."

Lamine Yahiaoui, Rapporteur of PRC Sub-Committee of Refugees, IDPs, Returnees

According to UNHCR 65.6 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, Africa hosts 30% of them (Europe 17%). 21.3 million are refugees, more than half of them are children and youth under the age of 18. Only 2% of the total African population leave the continent, about a quarter of these Africans head for Europe (0,54% of the total African population).

Due to the conflict in South Sudan, Uganda became the country in Africa hosting the largest number of refugees, currently 1.4 million. Uganda has one of the most generous and progressive approaches to receiving refugees. They are granted relative freedom of movement, access to primary education, healthcare and the right to work, immediately after arrival. In settlements, they are allocated pieces of land to live, grow food and start their own businesses, to make them self-sufficient in five years and no longer depend on humanitarian aid. Uganda admits refugees on its territory irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, or religion.

During the conference, about 40 participants from more than 10 African countries and some European countries - representatives of international NGOs, local initiatives, the European Union, the African Union, experts, officials and individuals concerned gathered for three days to:

- ▶ discuss the situation and future perspectives of African youth
- ▶ identify their positions, their problems, their concerns, their priorities
- ▶ find out how to provide them with a stable perspective on the ground and how to consolidate local pull factors as an alternative for migration
- ▶ relate to initiatives and good practise models
- ▶ interconnect the stakeholders invited
- ▶ highlight the African perspective and view on the problems and tasks to be tackled, as well as on African and European politics
- ▶ deduct recommendations for the EU-AU-Summit to be communicated to stakeholders and politicians representing Austria and the EU at the summit

The conference aimed at...

- ▶ creating a broad public awareness of the subject and the urgent need to address these issues and find solutions
- ▶ expanding the knowledge base on major challenges concerning African youth and Migration
- ▶ compiling a list of material, experiences, models, recommendations and good practice examples from different countries in regard to the major challenges, to be made accessible to the general public as well as to the policy makers and civil servants and those working in the field

Recommendations

Recommendations to the AU/EU Summit

- ▶ The international community should give full support to the extraordinary efforts of Uganda and some other African countries in receiving and supporting refugees on the basis of integration and inclusion
- ▶ The international community but also Europe should recognise that the biggest responsibility for the support and reception of refugees is borne by African countries themselves
- ▶ The AU-EU summit is the opportunity to address the issues of flight and migration, which is of great concern to the young generation, from a positive perspective and to try to develop common concepts of managing – not stopping – migration in a humane way
- ▶ All the issues, which are of concern to the African and European youth should be discussed in close cooperation and mutual exchange by the youth themselves
- ▶ The AU and EU cooperation should be built on a true partnership, especially fighting the root causes of forced migration in common

European Union & African Union

Improvement of the situation of the youth

- ▶ The AU and EU should empower, engage and support the youth as dynamic actors, able to design programs according to their needs and aiming towards positive change

- ▶ Youth refugees should be participating in the AU/EU summit, their voice should be considered
- ▶ AU and EU should partner and develop a mutual but not imposing cooperation, they should encourage volunteerism, exchange programs between the continents and establish a mutual recognition of skills and certificates
- ▶ Online networks should be promoted to connect youth initiatives world wide
- ▶ International and -continental sport events (like soccer games) should be run to foster exchange and social cohesion
- ▶ The AU and EU should develop comprehensive health care systems addressing especially the most vulnerable groups
- ▶ AU and EU should address discrimination and racism and promote inclusion and gender equality
- ▶ Project evaluation to identify good practice should involve people concerned in the recipient community

Addressing root causes for forced migration

- ▶ AU and EU should address root causes of forced migration (not only symptoms), link conflict prevention with migration policy programmes, establish policies to integrate migrants (right to work, to mobility, to healthcare and other social services) and set-up a system of legal migration.
- ▶ The AU and EU should commonly address the issues of climate change
- ▶ The AU and EU should fight terrorism with a special focus on the root causes

Improvement of the situation of refugees, migrants and returnees

- ▶ The AU and EU should ensure the security of refugees in the country of asylum
- ▶ The AU and EU should work towards establishing another narrative of migration which does not consider it to be a danger, but a standard
- ▶ AU and EU should disseminate correct information instead of clichés on the European realities ('paradise...') and Africa ('rich only in terms of resources...')

- ▶ The AU and EU should fight human traffickers who are abusing the plights and the hopes of African youth
- ▶ The AU and EU should jointly develop programs for returnees
- ▶ The EU and AU should fund refugee youth led-initiatives
- ▶ AU and EU should promote stronger links between the diaspora and the African continent in order to promote transfer of knowledge and experience

African Union

- ▶ The AU should support youth initiatives and the productive generation, and fund domestic youth-leadership programmes (Africa should help Africa)
- ▶ The AU must invest in the accessibility and sustainability of education for all, starting in early childhood, especially focussing on knowledge and skills that are locally beneficial and future-orientated, also ensuring circumstances allowing permanent and equal access to education for girls and people with disabilities
- ▶ The AU should develop a sustainable agricultural sector and provide food security for its people. To improve the image of farming, campaigns should promote the agricultural sector to encourage young people to work there
- ▶ The AU should develop a viable industrial sector including the processing of its products, in order to reduce imports and to bring high value products to international and African markets
- ▶ The AU should develop a market strategy depicting Africa as a continent of hope and opportunities
- ▶ The AU should develop and promote its talents and create an environment where Africans can be proud of their homelands and human resources so that emigration can be considered as an opportunity but not the only option

- ▶ AU should promote internal mobility and exchange of youth
- ▶ The AU should promote and ensure the rights of refugees and migrants
- ▶ The AU and its members should grant refugees, especially women and girls, safety and protection to prevent abuse and rape and to support victims in coping with inspection and legal provisions by the police and in providing health and psychological treatment
- ▶ AU must improve governance, address conflicts linked to tribalism and fight corruption in Africa
- ▶ In addition to regional cooperation, Africa needs a strong and united African Union, to be perceived in a better way and more powerful

European Union

- ▶ The EU should stop considering migration as a threat and should not give in to populist anti-migration policies
- ▶ EU should address the issue of governance in Africa, engage in capacity building of institutions and individual states (anti-corruption, rule of law, equality...) and contribute actively to resolve and prevent conflicts
- ▶ EU should especially engage in capacity building of African youth to enable them to make decisions, funds should prioritize technology and education in Africa
- ▶ Donations & funding should be allocated to local communities and organisations to a large extent in order to develop and benefit local human resources in a sustainable way
- ▶ Expansion of the Erasmus Program to allow African youth to participate
- ▶ Separate the budgeting for Official Development Assistance in the Global South and programs for refugees and migrants in Europe

A Stable Alliance with African Youth

A commentary by the curator of the 4th International Conference NOW in Kampala

Hannes Swoboda

The participants of the 4th Conference NOW in Uganda, which was organised by Act.Now and the International Institute for Peace (IIP) in Vienna, gave their best to work out a comprehensive concept against forced migration across the Mediterranean. With 1.3 million refugees, Uganda has received the largest number of refugees in all of Africa, and provided for them in an exemplary manner. That's why, as organisers, we chose Uganda's capital to host the conference.

But what can Europe and what can Africa do to put an end to this extremely risky and often deadly migration? Shouldn't the focus be on directing migration towards well-regulated and controlled channels? And wouldn't it make more sense to develop concepts together with Africans who are interested in shaping their future in their own continent?

Unfortunately, we are unable to end wars and conflicts from one day to the next and to topple brutal regimes in the blink of an eye. Therefore, Europe should remain open for asylum seekers and ready for fair asylum procedures. And, above all, we should give more support to the many African countries – such as Uganda – that bear the brunt of migration. The “Uganda model” must not collapse.

It is rather naive of Europe to direct all efforts only towards the transit countries, or to use them as the starting point for collaborations between the EU and Africa **when the discussion should**

be about eliminating the causes for forced migration. African governments want to contain irregular emigration. However, the driving forces are predominantly organisations set up by the young civil society that want to make a contribution.

Therefore, **the EU and the individual member states should open up legal migration paths.** These may not be unlimited and must take into account the economic conditions in Europe, but this measure should, above all, give African youth an opportunity to study in Europe and gain experiences they can subsequently implement in Africa. On that note, a sensible suggestion would be to expand exchange programmes, such as the EU Erasmus programme, to include African states. Of course, some of the participants will later decide to stay in Europe legally, but the diaspora can play an active role for both sides, strengthening economic ties as well. At the same time, the repatriation of illegal migrants would also be inevitable. Opening up legal paths provides the moral right to prevent illegal immigration.

Having said this, it's vital that Europe supports democratic good governance in Africa. In Europe, we tend to dally over dictators because they are more predictable, hence provide more “stability”. In addition to that, European companies are involved in the exploitation of mineral resources in a way that hardly contributes to sustainable development. Often, corruption strengthens the ties between



these multinationals and a small irresponsible elite in the respective countries. Similarly, despite a few positive changes, European trade and fishery policies are by no means designed for sustainable development.

However, African youth not so much criticise Europe for its brutal colonial policy or failure of dealing with the migration crisis. Instead, they rather vehemently oppose African governments the governance of which drives many young people out of their country. Poor and negligent governance also form the ideal breeding ground for terrorism. As a result, it's hardly surprising that Boko Haram causes "successful" havoc predominantly in places where the population is highly neglected by the government and, more particularly, the education system.

If Europe collaborates with such governments indiscriminately it doesn't help to eliminate the reasons for migration. The AU-EU Summit, scheduled for the end of November, will predominantly discuss the prospects of African youth. This could be just the right occasion to establish a new alliance between Europe and African youth. Young Africans need hope and the certainty to be able to find work and sufficient income on their own continent. There are

many industrious young people who want to invest in their own and the continent's future together with European investors. **When we think of Africa we shouldn't just think of poverty and misery, but also of dynamic forces and the willingness to take risks.**

The protection of the external borders of the EU, agreements with transit countries, the battle against smugglers of refugees and similar defensive measures can never be successful without tackling the root of emigration. These efforts are about taking a moral stance and an attempt at reconciliation, on the one hand, and the European interest in a "different" Africa that can tap its own resources for the benefit of its own population, on the other hand. **Europe must form a stable alliance with African youth,** if necessary, by looking beyond the responsible forces, which are not always responsible-minded. In the battle against irregular and often deadly migration we can attract large parts of African civil society, especially many young people as alliance partners. We should support them and not rely on the treacherous stability of some authoritarian regimes.

Overview of the Sessions



Opening

Sunday, 3rd September 2017

Keynotes from:

Hannes Swoboda, MEP (ret.), President of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), Board Member, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue (Austria)

Musa Ecweru, State Minister for Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees (Uganda)

Lamine Yahiaoui, Rapporteur of PRC Sub-Committee of Refugees, IDPs, Returnees to the African Union (Sahrawi)

Bornwell Kantande, Country Representative, UNHCR (Uganda)



Hannes Swoboda: Africa and Europe must find a way of cooperation. How we can help each other? And I say perfectly „each other“, because Europe cannot live in peace when there is a big problem in Africa, and the other way around. I think only a positive attitude in the sense of what can we do together can really bring forward a peaceful managing of migration.

Lamine Yahiaoui: More than 65 million people are forcefully displaced across the globe. Africa hosts 12.4 million persons who are internally displaced and 5.6 million refugees and asylum seekers. By all indicators, Africa is also a youthful continent. About 65% of this population is below the age of 35, and more than 35% are between the age of 15 and 35. About 10 million African youth join the labour market every single year. Young people who find themselves in the situation of displacement often have limited access to education, livelihood, and the right to work. Furthermore, in countries of asylum, refugees are often subject to discrimination, xenophobia, and racism. It is however important to note that the vast majority of refugees and displaced youth are victims of terrorism and not its perpetrators. Above all, the international community has to have a proactive approach and assume its full responsibility in contributing positively to find a durable solution to the issues of migration by tackling its root causes. livelihoods and rights to work.



Kantande Bornwell: A way to achieve the consideration of providing opportunities for youth, is to ensure that the youths find work that connects their hearts to their aspirations. To do so, we need to listen to them, and support them in their choices as they ensure that they can help both themselves and their families.

We should also remember that those who pay others to take them to Europe, pay more than what a plane would cost them, sometimes they pay with their lives.

The solution is not about protecting people from moving, but making it easier. The youth is a resource that we need to build on for the sake of the continent, and for the sake of the world.



Musa Ecweru: As a minister in Uganda I am responsible for the management of over 1.3 million refugees. Those are the people I serve. The word „refugee“ is not synonymous with „criminal“. The world has let down refugees, because they think when they see refugees, they see criminals.

Refugees are victims of a dysfunctional global system.

African refugees, African youth are at crossroads, in their ears they're being told that Africa is the continent of hope, Africa represents the richest continent remaining on the planet, and that Africa represents promise. Yet with their eyes they see hunger, they see famine, they see death, they see recruitment into systems that they don't quite understand.

Fix governance, address climate change, address the issues of migrants and make migration easy and possible, so that people are not forced to take dangerous options.

Voices to be heard - Reports from African Youth and Refugees

Sunday, 3rd September 2017

Keynotes from:

Bella Nshimirimana, Social Worker and 'Refugee Woman of the Year' (Burundi/Uganda)

Youssouf Diakit , Chairperson, African Youth Diaspora in Europe (Mali/Austria)

Christine James, Refugee from South Sudan (Uganda)

Bella Nshimirimana: I have fled my country six years ago because of the political instability. I gave birth, which was a sad experience. I did not know how to speak English and it was very difficult to communicate with doctors and nurses. After I was left alone with my baby I



found my family, my husband, and my stepchildren. We were 12 people, whereby it was difficult to manage life.

I participated in the Refugee Law Project to learn English and to be the voice of the voiceless, and started volunteering for my communities, not only for the Burundian community but also for other refugees, because they were facing the same challenges that I was facing. Trauma, stress of life, no job. I saw that if we continue sitting at home, just comparing the life that we have here in Kampala and the one we left behind, we are not going anywhere.



Youssouf Diakit : I was born in Mali, raised there and I even had the chance to go to the university in Mali to study business management. I had a good job at Ecobank, while my friends did not have anything. One day, I was thinking, I will take the opportunity to go to Europe to study further and to come back. Maybe I could then become the director of my bank.

I went to Austria. When I arrived, I realized that I became a black guy. I wasn't Youssouf anymore that used to wear nice clothes, meet nice people. I tried to have my diploma from Mali recognized and at the end of the day, I realized that I am an unskilled person. I could not get any job according my potential and started looking for a small job to survive which was not easy.

I will tell you the truth, less than 10% of African students nowadays are getting their diploma because of financial and other issues. We decided to create an organization, an African Student Organization, to try to help each other. After my second master program in Vienna, we started to organize ourselves to make sure that our brothers and our sisters in Africa will be linked in. Now we organize, two times a year, big conferences, where we invite many entrepreneurs from Africa, about 170, to meet European companies and to meet the African diaspora.

Christina James: My name is Christine James, and I am a South Sudanese refugee. Some organizations do not take care for refugees the way they should. Many refugees returned back to their countries because they were suffering. They were not given good treatment, they did not have a house to stay in, not enough food, they did not have a school to go to. The organizations should provide schools for younger children, and also provide teachers to give youth a good educational foundation. Because if the children are not given a good foundation, they will suffer in future, like we are suffering now.



Migration and Forced Migration from European and African Perspectives

Monday, 4th September 2017

Hosts:

Hannes Swoboda, MEP (ret.), President of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), Board Member, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue (Austria)

Winfred Adukule, Lawyer and Author (Uganda)

Panel with:

Noemi Cascone, Junior Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management - ECDPM (Belgium)

Kati Piri, Member and Rapporteur for Turkey, European Parliament (Netherlands)

Lamine Yahiaoui, Rapporteur of PRC Sub-Committee of Refugee, IDPs, Returnee to the African Union (Sahrawi)

Veronique Eragu, Member, Parliament of Uganda (Uganda)

Taban Yasin, Local Government Chairman, Yumbe District (Uganda) - tbc

Delali Badasu, Researcher, University of Ghana (Ghana)

Matthias Esene, National Project Officer, International Centre for Migration Policy Development - ICMPD (Nigeria)



Hannes Swoboda: I am not giving general terms, Africa is good or bad or Europe is good or bad. As with Europe, there are different approaches in Africa, different countries take refugees or treat refugees or migrants in different ways.

In Europe, there are of course prejudices, there is xenophobia, there is racism playing a role, but inside Europe already we have the debate, is it really good that so many Romanians or Bulgarians, generally people from poorer countries are working in richer countries now.

We should deal with the issue of the sector of care and hospitals as institutions for medical care. For the moment there is some competition even in that sector, but nevertheless, on the long run, rich societies, all societies, understand more and more the necessity for caring personnel. When we think about the issue that in some of our countries, robots should take our jobs - in Japan already it is done - then it is crazy that we will rather employ robots, give them a human face and not have people from somewhere else - ordinary human beings doing the job.

Winfred Adukule: As a result of 2015, the influx from Syria, I believe Europe got alarmed. **The media also needs to inform the people of Europe, on the actual immigration numbers from Africa.** There are also Africans coming back home, quite a number, but somehow no one wants to talk about it.



If you say „Africans are migrating“, look at the countries that Africans are actually migrating to. These are our former colonial masters. So, they also need to take their role in history. History is actually to blame for what is happening now.



Noemi Cascone: It has become increasingly difficult for the EU to deal with migrants because of the fact that our **international and European frameworks do not capture the complexity of human mobility in 2017.**

Because we have a clear distinction between, for

example, refugees and economic migrants. Refugees have a very clear status and protection, however, economic migrants not entirely, yet we have a definition for this particular group. Over the years, the motives of migrants have overlapped. Often for economic migrants, it's the difference between having one opportunity or no perspective at all. It's not forced migration per se but the lines are getting blurred. It's very difficult for the EU to distinguish between the different types of migration because they're creating many grey areas between the different types of migrants or the classification of migrants. However, what we know is that development is a long-term process and it is not done by throwing money at the problem and thinking that we will change anything on the short term. The problem with the overall discourse is, that it is meant to stop migration and not actually to invest in development on the long term for the interest of the people for genuine development purposes.

Kati Piri: Politicians in Europe don't admit that stopping migration is something impossible and probably also unwanted. With that mindset we will continue to pursue the wrong policies with the wrong tools. The 28 countries from the EU 28 are actually externalizing border management. Although we say we do not push back people in need, we are paying the Libyan coast guards to do it for us. We struck a deal with Turkey and made Turkey close its borders to Syria, where we all know that there are refugees crossing this border. We are also asking African countries, African governments to put up hard borders in Africa. **While we are saying we are not doing it, we are not the ones stopping refugees from coming to Europe, we actually externalize our border and ask other governments to do it for us.**



Lamine Yahiaoui: How can we provide youth with dignity, with self-esteem, with a job, to contrive that they can stay wherever they are.

With mutual understanding, we can help each other not to foster the position of extending or exporting the problem to someone else. We can work together and find a solution tackling those issues, even though we are facing problems now, we should not be discouraged to cooperate and find a joint solution. Thank you so much.

Delali Badasu: **28% of migrants to Europe are youth, from 15 to 24 years.**

Whilst Europe and of course Africa are tackling irregular migration, we all know that a lot of irregular migrants move because there are networks helping them, to the extent that even children are able to move to other countries.



Unfortunately, in the research industry, irregular migration is not a popular area. On the other side, the media just gives you journalistic evidence, evidence that does not show the whole picture, because ethical principles limit the media, not to report everything that they may see. That is my first observation, that we need research evidence to support all the policies that we are actually adopting. We have done it the other way around. We have brought up policies and then we go and do research.



Veronique Eragu: I want to start by really saying migration is a given. We all migrate, whether locally in our villages, in our districts, in our countries and then globally to other people's whatever. It is something that we cannot put a stop to. We need to check and improve our laws in

Africa. Before we even start negotiating with Europe, before we start whatever, Africa must start speaking with one voice.

There has to be some kind of cohesion. We should have no form of discrimination. I beg your pardon. No discrimination, which includes racism - and this leads us to the problem. You're black, you are in trouble. Wherever you go. Xenophobia and intolerance. **We have to tolerate each other. If we are now able to tolerate each other in this room, then why should it change when we get to the borders?** We already established international frameworks. It's all there. We have incorporated most of these international frameworks in our laws, in our constitutions, and in our policies. Do we implement them? Do we enforce them? Why do we find ourselves in the situation we find ourselves?

Matthias Esene: In Nigeria in 2016, we had about 25,000 irregular migrants that tried to go through the Sahara Desert to Europe. In 2016, you had 2.2 million people internally displaced, as a result of the Boko Haram's insurgency. Now, 95,000 of the 2.2 million displaced persons crossed international borders and they ended up in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, not Europe. That is less than 10% of the displaced population. It means over 90% of the displaced population went to other parts of the country to seek refuge. That simply means Africans will not invade Europe because its population is growing, because there is poverty, because there is lack of opportunity, because there are no jobs.



In Africa, for instance, there is more European labour mobility of working as experts in Africa than Africans working as experts in Europe. Why? It is not a question of who is right and wrong. It is just a question of how we understand migration. I find it very funny that we should imagine that Africans should remain in Africa. European should remain Europe. Maybe Asians should remain in Asia perhaps. Then we should not be talk about globalization anymore.

Approaches of Receiving Countries

Monday, 4th September 2017

Hosts:

Susan Alupo, Deputy Program Manager, Refugee Law Project (Uganda)

Kati Piri, Member and Rapporteur for Turkey, European Parliament (Netherlands)

Panel with:

Noemi Cascone, Junior Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), (Belgium)

Bornwell Kantande, Country Representative, UNHCR (Uganda)

Petr Pribyla, Programme Adviser, Delegation of the European Union to Uganda (Uganda)

Amy Mbacke Diaw, Director for Assistance and Promotion, Head Office of Senegalese abroad (Senegal)

Ncumisa Willie, Research Advisor, South African Human Rights Commission (South Africa)

Yotam Gidron, Researcher, International Refugee Rights Initiative (Uganda)

Matthias Esene, National Project Officer, International Centre for Migration Policy Development - ICMPD (Nigeria)

Susan Alupo: Many times countries are afraid of people moving into their country, so migration becomes a problem for them. People actually fall sick when they hear that people are coming to their countries. Migration is not a problem. **We need to stop complaining about migration.**

Visas should be made affordable but also accessible for people. Different countries have different regulations which makes it difficult for people to move.



Kati Piri: Uganda is proud to be a good host for refugees, but very often countries do not want to be seen as the most attractive spot to refugees.

This is a perception we often observed within the European Union where no one wanted to be seen as

the best host country for refugees, because that might lead to everyone coming to your country.

Noemi Cascone: Now, what we are not being told is that 84% of refugees are hosted in developing countries and most of them in neighbouring countries. Comparatively, Europe is hosting a very insignificant number of migrants. Only around 4% of European population consist of third country nationals, that is comparatively much less than what we probably like to believe in Europe.



We need the EU to have a unified asylum system, which we are working on but not really moving forward on. **We need a right based integration process** giving more rights to migrants because this is the only way they can integrate. We cannot expect them to integrate if we do not give them the right to work, if we do not give them the right to bring their spouse, and we if we do not give them health services and so on.



Bornwell Katande: We promote the recruitment of qualified refugees in our current operation. We are recruiting qualified teachers. I have asked the health partners to recruit qualified health staff in the area **because it is the best thing to do and when you do**

that, you ensure that they are self-reliant in their communities and they support the community in that they are part of.

It is important that we share information, we share facts from both sides so that we can find a solution for our people. My suggestion to you is: why can't we have the African Union youth meeting the European Union youth, letting these two groups coming with proposals for solutions?

The issue of trafficking needs to be addressed as well and it must be put on the table. The reason people are dying in the desert, dying in the Mediterranean Sea, is not that they do not know how to get to Europe. Somebody must have told them: „I can get you there.“ And they believed that person, and they paid that person. If we have an alternative route that is not predetermined by those traffickers, people will still be able to get to Europe and come back.



Petr Pribyla: An important point is finding a political solution. At the same time, you have to talk about implementation. And no matter how good the policy is you have in place, there is of course a certain limit how much you can stretch implementation. How much

you can really deliver what you promised on a paper. Finding a solution to a problem is that you have to acknowledge that there is a problem.

Refugees are not only passive recipients of humanitarian aid, but people have a huge positive impact on the districts where they are located, if the condition are right of course. And we are talking about people who will stay here for quite a while, possibly so let's pull all in the same direction.

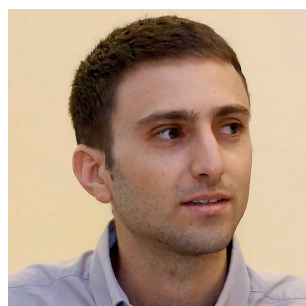
Ncumisa Willie: South Africa developed a very liberal asylum process but parallel to that, it tightly restricted access for other forms of migration. It can be very difficult for you to come to South Africa just to work or to come to South Africa for educational purposes. The only available legal avenue now is the refugee/asylum process. This, of course, put a burden on the system, it clogged it and because a lot of people depended on it, it bred the ground for corruption. The system became very corrupt, officials became very corrupt, it became very bureaucratic. But it also provides an opportunity for those who do not have a refugee claim to find a legal way to remain in South Africa.



I think from the South African experience, what we could learn is that we need to loosen up our borders. We need to allow people to migrate, we need to allow young people to access our market. **The notion of borders has never been an African notion.** People have always traded freely and moved freely around, but now, we are adopting the European and Western restrictive notion of borders.

Amy Mbacke Diaw: Senegal is one of the first countries to have a law for the protection of refugees, which was passed in 1968.

Investigation showed that the majority of the refugees are keen to stay in Senegal and are therefore applying for a Senegalese citizenship, because the integration process is functioning well in this country. Refugees are allowed to find accommodation anywhere and rent it, if they wish so. Generally, they have access to the same rights as the Senegalese inhabitants. They have the right to educate themselves in Senegal and have the door opened to health institutions. There is no discrimination in Senegal right now regarding migrants and refugees. Despite that, they do not have the right to vote, they do not have necessary support from the private sectors or from the authorities, because these groups are not keen to support the migrants coming to Senegal.



Yotam Gidron: We have very few examples of countries in Africa that actually push back migrants at the border, like many countries in the West do.

We see Europe making it harder for refugees to cross the Mediterranean, we see Israel literally closing the border to Africa with a wall. In Africa, we will barely find places in which countries stop migrants at the border; could be because of hospitable reasons or just because they do not have the capacity to do it. There is a problematic assumption that harsher measures towards refugees will stop migration. **There must be a clear commitment from countries, both in Europe and in Africa, to facilitate legal channels for migration and ensure that asylum seekers have effective access to effective protection.**

African Youth: From Motives for Migration to Alternatives to Migration - African Initiatives to Improve the Local Living Conditions

Tuesday, 5th September 2017

Hosts:

Victor Ochen, Founder, African Youth Initiative Network (Uganda)

Panel with:

Janine Hunter, Researcher, University of Dundee (UK)

Esther Nakajjigo, Ambassador for Women and Girls (Uganda)

Joselyn Namakhula, Head Gender and Development Officer, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (Uganda)

Muhammed Kisirisa, Slum Ambassador and Co-Founder, AFFCAD (Uganda)

Gerald Abila, Founder, Barefoot Law (Uganda)

Youssouf Diakité, Chairperson, African Youth Diaspora in Europe (Mali/Austria)

Jude Nyanzi, Founder, Daystar School (Uganda)



Victor Ochen: What compels young Africans to leave home? Let's not talk about only crossing to Europe but also crossing borders within Africa. So, let's not talk only about the EU-African migration but also internal movement. Again, one point that we should ask ourselves,

„How come all international resettlements happen in the West? Why do not we have also other people seeking resettlement to Africa?“ I have never had any Iraqis seeking to resettle to Uganda, or some other places. Even despite the good policy we have, I know they are there, but it is not prevalent, like the way Africans seek resettlement in Canada, and all over the world.

I always told myself that war displaced us for far too long in Africa, now it is the time to displace war forever from Africa and this is the only generation that can do that. Let us recommit ourselves to make Africa a better place. Not make it great again but making it the best place on earth.

Janine Hunter Hall: Nowadays the African Youth is growing up in protracted crises and are traumatized by the experience of journey into their host country, becoming a refugee. They have witnessed death, violence, and rape or experienced some of those things themselves. **So, the pathways to adulthood are interrupted by their experiences moving into a refugee status and they are no longer able to achieve the key markers or transitions into adulthood.** They are not able to complete their education, they are not able to find employment. They are not able to achieve marriage, family life or build a home. They are motivated to move onwards, yet they move backwards. This is because of the protracted nature of conflict in their home country which may is still dangerous, their connections have moved on, their assets have disappeared, they may have been very young when they left their home country, which obviously affects more than half of the refugees.



Esther Nakajjigo: The time is now for African nations to make the youth active shareholders within their own nations and countries. There is like a project that has come up, some money is there for the youth to do something, and the youth do not take hold on projects. When the

youth does not lead these projects, the project comes and when the implementers go, they go with the projects, and the youth also disappears. Trust me, if the youth are engaged effectively, they will jealously guard these projects and defend what belongs to them.

Now, most African societies are made up of three quarters of young people, and half of these young people have no jobs, have no money, no parents, no mother, no wife, no nothing, holding a gun and shooting someone, because what could you possibly lose? And those who have the energy will hold the guns. Those who cannot hold the guns, will go under, and the world characterizes these young people as vulnerable.

Now, when will this ever get better if the world's biggest population is vulnerable? Let us lead our projects. Please do not ignore us. We are the future.

Joselyn Namakhula: We were looking at peace building, we were looking at fighting idleness, because many of them were getting involved in prostitution and in drug abuse. This was happening and we said: „What can we do?“ We started with a sport programme. We said: „If different people are playing together on the same team, I’m sure there will be a reduction of their conflicts.“ We did not have any resources. We went, consulted people from church, we asked if we could use their pitch for our purposes.



Those are things that we are doing, mainly our target was to **integrate the refugees into the host community, and to make them self-reliant and sustainable. We have had over 3,000 people who have gone through our program, but we also involved the nationals.** In that regard, several people resettled in Canada, in America, and they came back. They came back to set up projects here, and they do not even want to go back.



Muhammed Kisirisa In 2009, I co-founded “Action for Fundamental Change and Development” which is helping to transform lives in the slum areas of Kampala through health, education, and economic empowerment. We take young people through vocational training,

skills development. Giving them a skill, they go ahead and learn entrepreneurship.

Additionally, we are also trying to empower communities where our young people come from, specifically those from the Kisenyi community, where we are establishing another vocational training centre. We have the goal to multiply this idea within the country. **The community itself needs to know, to understand things, and welcome these people and also be able to live in harmony and peace.** We will do a huge campaign in Kisenyi and other slum areas around Kampala in the five divisions, on making people understand why we have our brothers from another mother here. We thought through the model of trying to empower young people between 16-25 that are out of school, that come from the different countries, we are going to help them live in Uganda by finding jobs themselves, by creating jobs themselves, but also creating opportunities, helping them access financial tools, that can also help them to establish their own jobs.

Gerald Abila: I want to ask the African youth today to disabuse the notion, that youth are leaders of tomorrow. Because this continent itself is a continent that was built and created by youth. The challenges we are facing as youth today is different from the challenges the youth was facing in the past.



I started an organization called “Barefoot Law”, five years ago. Barefoot Law is now the biggest legal initiative in East Africa, that provides legal help using modern tools of technology including SMS, social media, the internet. When we started Barefoot Law, the average age at office was 23. None of us had any practice certificates in law. Today we have over seven, eight advocates that are working for Barefoot Law, handling around 1,000 cases. We started off without any funding and we did it in Uganda, in Africa, a continent, where everyone thinks nothing is possible.

As part of the youth and as a leader in this continent, you have to start equipping yourself with skills that will enable you to be relevant in the future that is coming, which is a future that is going to be highly influenced by artificial intelligence and machine learning.



Jude Nyanzi: In Kirombe we began with an organization, and we later found out that it did not work out. After some time passed, we analysed the strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats around us. We mostly focused on the strength amongst us, then we went to the community and

asked the community what project would be mostly needed. They told us that an educational project would be mostly needed, so we knew that we need a school in our area because many children are not going to school.

So, we started an elementary school, a primary school called “Daystar Junior School”. When we began, we had 173 children in the first term, but now we have 396 children coming to our school. That shows the urgency and the need of schools in our area. Many children are still coming in. We basically, provide basic education, numeracy, literacy, how to read and write at an early age, because we found out that many of them were not going to school. **It is very hard to deal with slum children. They come from homes of illiterate people, their parents have never gone to school, they know nothing about education and the value of education.**

Yousseuf Diakité: The motive why people are leaving Africa, like myself, is because of discrimination. Discrimination because we do not get the jobs we want in Africa, but we all went to university together. Some people, just because they are the daughter or the son of a certain ambassador, are going to get the job. Why there is no transparency, and why there is no way to just study and to get a job in a natural way, without knowing somebody? Of course, we have discrimination everywhere. In Vienna, we call it



"Vitamin B" which means you need to know somebody to do something. There is a lack of information distribution. People mostly are keeping the information for themselves. They are not sharing the valuable information they got with others.

"What are the resources of my country?" I would answer: "Gold." My father said: „No, no, no. It's agriculture."
How can we make agriculture sexy for our youth? If we say agriculture, it does not mean the same way our grandfather was doing it. Agriculture is not only producing, but to hold the whole value chain and develop everything containing it. We need to know those kinds of things.



Appendix

Contributors

The 4th International Conference NOW is initiated by **Act.Now** | André Heller, Patricia Kahane and Elke Zuckermann & **International Institute for Peace (IIP)** | Hannes Swoboda

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Who we ARE

Act.Now is an enterprise based on a private initiative of its founders acting internationally and above party lines. The office is located in Vienna.

What we WANT

In a time of profound social changes that bring about challenges to societies and democracies Act.Now wants to stimulate public discourse and enhance public awareness about social solidarity and integration focussing on youth, refugees and migrants as well as locals.

What we DO

- ▶ Act.Now supports people to take on more responsibility in their respective environment.
- ▶ Act.Now connects people and initiatives to raise the effectiveness of projects aimed to strengthen social cohesion.
- ▶ Act.Now provides information about social change and its impact on society to promote new solutions.
- ▶ To achieve its objectives Act.Now employs processes that are both cognitively and emotionally effective.

International Institute for Peace (IIP)



President & Vice-Presidents Hannes Swoboda, Angela Kane, Klaus von Dohnanyi, Managing director Stephanie Fenkart

Who we ARE

The International Institute for Peace is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with headquarters in Vienna. The Institute (IIP) has consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and to the United Nations Organization for Education, Science, Culture and Communication (UNESCO). It operates on the basis of Austrian law as a non-profit association.

What we WANT

The IIP aims at conducting peace research but is also intended to function as a platform to promote non-violent conflict resolution in different areas of the world and to a wide range of people – scholars, military staff and civil society but also to students and people who are interested into topics concerning peace and peaceful approaches to existing conflicts.

What we DO

Work relating to requirements and conditions for sustainable peace is wide-ranging, and investigates the subject from many angles. In order to meet those challenges, the IIP is collaborating with various national and international institutions and organisations. The IIP – alone or in cooperation - organizes lectures, conferences and symposia on issues which are dealing with peace and/or peaceful conflict-resolutions. Research projects in cooperation with Austrian and international experts as well as with leading scholars also provide findings in the fields of economy, society and peaceful conflict resolution to governments and international organizations. The IIP is also publishing articles and books on relevant topics.

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Previous NOW Conferences

NOW 3 - Vienna, January 2017

The 3rd Conference NOW was dedicated to refugee children. The key issues were challenges in education, protection against violence and exploitation and dealing with traumatised. The participants of the conference contributed to developing a holistic approach to address the needs, identify areas of interventions and share good practice solutions for a better future of all children.

The 3rd Conference NOW was curated by Viola Raheb, educationalist, assistant at the Institute for Religious Studies at the University of Vienna and curator of the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue.

NOW 2 - Athens, July 2016

The implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement to handle migration flows poses huge challenges for local communities in border regions. Mayors from affected municipalities in Greece, Turkey and Italy met at the second Conference NOW to assess this agreement, together with representatives of NGOs, members of the European Parliament, experts and refugees. The conference was hosted by Hannes Swoboda, former MEP and currently a board member of the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue in Vienna.

NOW 1 - Vienna, January 2016

The first International Mayors' Conference NOW was held in January 2016 in Vienna. At that gathering, Mayors from local authorities along refugee routes (Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Austria, Germany), representatives of NGOs and people who had been forced to flee their homeland met for the first time to discuss practical solutions at local level.



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